

been evacuated it was thought best to make no attempt to return until the Confederate authorities had been conferred with.

The following is a copy of the papers carried by the commissioners. ("Records War of Rebellion," p. 178, No. 100):

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
RALEIGH, April 12, 1865.

GENERAL W. T. SHERMAN, *Commanding U. S. Forces:*

SIR:—Understanding that your army is advancing on this capital, I have to request, under proper safe conduct, a personal interview at such time as may be agreeable to you, for the purpose of conferring upon the subject of a suspension of hostilities, with a view to further communication with the authorities of the United States touching the final termination of the existing war. If you concur in the propriety of such a proceeding I shall be obliged for an early reply.

With high respect, your obedient servant,

Z. B. VANCE.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI—IN THE FIELD,
GULLEY'S STATION, N. C., April 12, 1865.

His Excellency, Z. B. VANCE, Governor of North Carolina:

SIR:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of this date, and inclose you a safeguard for yourself and any member of the State government that chooses to remain in Raleigh. I would gladly have enabled you to meet me here, but some interruption occurred to the train by the orders of General Johnston after I had passed within the lines of my cavalry advance, but as it came out of Raleigh in good faith it shall return in good faith, and will in no measure be claimed by us. I doubt if hostilities can be suspended as between the army of the Confederate Government and the one I command, but I will aid you all in my power to contribute to the end you aim to reach, the termination of the existing war.

I am truly, your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General.

(*Inclosure*).

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI—IN THE FIELD,
GULLEY'S STATION, N. C., April 12, 1865.

All officers and soldiers of this army are commanded to respect and protect the Governor of North Carolina and the officers and servants of the State government, the Mayor and civil authorities of Raleigh, pro-